Rural Sanitary District of Whitchurch, Hants.

Area, 30,609 Acres; Population, 5822 (1901).

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1904.

REGISTERED BIRTHS—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	65
Overton District	...	...	...	...	55
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	...	36
		Total	...	...	156
DEATHS—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	35
Overton District	...	...	...	...	13
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	...	15
		Total	...	...	63
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	...	7
Overton District	...	...	...	...	5
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	...	1
		Total	...	...	13
DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS—					
Whitchurch Workhouse	...	...	...	...	6
Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	1
		Total	...	...	7

Comparing this with the previous year we have:—

				1903.	1904.
BIRTHS—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	72	65
Overton District	...	...	...	49	55
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	25	36
		Total	...	146	156
				1903.	1904.
DEATHS—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	45	35
Overton District	...	...	...	22	13
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	15	15
		Total	...	82	63
				1903.	1904.
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—					
Whitchurch District	...	...	...	12	7
Overton District	...	...	...	7	5
St. Mary Bourne District	...	...	...	1	1
		Total	...	20	13

Deaths in Public Institutions—	1903.	1904.
Whitchurch Workhouse	8	6
Isolation Hospital	0	1
Total ...	8	7

Death Rates—	1903.	1904.
General	14·08	10·8
Infant	136·9	83·3

Birth Rate per 1000 of Population :—1903 : 25·07. 1904 : 26·7.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, adopted February, 1890, shews the following results :—

Whitchurch District—	
Diphtheria	8
Erysipelas	1
Enteric Fever	1
Peurperal Fever	1
Total	11
Overton District—	
Erysipelas	3
St. Mary Bourne District—	0

Total in Sanitary Area, 14 ; as compared with 28 in 1903.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases : 1 (from Peurperal Fever).

The following is the return of new cases of Sickness attended as Paupers by the Medical Officer of each District during the year :—

Whitchurch	115	as against	96	in 1903.
Overton	48	„	53	„
St. Mary Bourne	66	„	67	„

Of which Catarrh, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and a few cases of Influenza and Diarrhœa form the chief features.

With regard to the health of the District, the year 1904 may be classed as good ; there appears to have been but little illness, and an absence of any general epidemic—both death rate and infant mortality being below the average of the last ten years.

Influenza was somewhat prevalent at the beginning of the year, chiefly affecting children, and a few cases have occurred at intervals since.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis were also prevalent in the first half of the year.

Scarlet Fever has been entirely absent from the District, though one case from Overton admitted December 1, 1903, remained in Hospital till January 12.

Enteric Fever. One case was notified in Whitchurch on September 7, and removed to the Isolation Hospital on September 8 ; no local cause could be found for the illness, so that the patient being a commercial traveller it was probably contracted elsewhere.

Diphtheria was notified in eight cases from the Whitchurch District—occurring in sporadic cases at irregular intervals but never as an epidemic, but it will be interesting to trace its course, and it will be seen from the last report that three similar cases had occurred in October and November, 1903. The first of this series being an adult on January 29, no special cause for its origin could be ascertained, though the closet and water supply required attention : a new tube well was put in subsequently. This case occurring in a licensed house it is probable

that it may have been introduced by a visitor. The patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital the same day. The second case was notified on March 31, a young lady who had been abroad and returned home indisposed the day before; this case was isolated at home. On April 12, the case of a child, five years old, was notified, here some repair and more ventilation to the cottage was required, there being several children: this case was removed to the Hospital. On July 13, a child, 11 years old, was notified from another part of Whitchurch, here there were also several children in the family, and the child was removed to the Hospital; the drain from the sink required attention. On August 20, a lad, 10 years old, from a travelling van went to the doctor, who notified Diphtheria, but while arrangements were being made to get him to the Hospital he disappeared. On August 23, another adult case occurred in Whitchurch, and was admitted to the Hospital the same day; here there were several inmates in the cottage, but no cause could be ascertained for its occurrence. On September 30, a child, 8 years old, was notified in the same locality as the last, and where again there were several children in the family; this child had recently been to the County Hospital at Winchester as an out-patient, after treatment there for some affection of the throat, she was admitted to the Isolation Hospital the same day. On October 18, a case in an adult casual at the Workhouse was notified and removed to the Isolation Hospital. Of these eight cases, six were removed to the Hospital, and no second case occurred in any of the houses.

Puerperal Fever.—This patient was attended by an aged woman who had been with her in all her previous confinements. On the ninth day the doctor was sent for, and notified her to be suffering from Puerperal Septicæmia, she was then in great danger, and there being several children in the cottage and the husband's occupation such as to expose him to insanitary and septic influences, it was desirable that the patient should be removed; with this object application was made for her admission to the County Hospital but without success, so under the special circumstances she was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, which was then empty, but the case proved fatal.

During the year eight patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, viz., six Diphtheria, one Enteric Fever, and one Puerperal Fever.

On analysing the causes of death it is pleasant to find that the increase in cases of Phthisis and Cancer noted in the last report is not maintained, there being only two deaths from the former, and four from the latter during the year. Where deaths occur from these diseases, disinfection and cleansing of house and premises is strongly recommended. To combat these diseases, as also many others, houses should be kept in as sanitary a state as possible, well lighted and ventilated, not overcrowded, and defective drainage of soil remedied to avoid damp.

During the year we narrowly escaped the introduction of Small Pox; through the courtesy of Dr. Farr, of Andover, I received information that on June 1, a tramp presented himself who had had the rash out for three days, and passed through this district the previous day, having called at houses on his way for water; owing to this information we were on the alert to deal with an emergency.

Disinfection of premises, bedding and clothing has been carefully carried out by the Sanitary Officer under direction, and disinfectants supplied where required.

As regards Drainage, there is no regular system of Sewerage, but in the more populous places in Whitchurch and Overton, through which the river Test flows, drains and gutters have been laid for the conveyance of surface water, usually to the river; into these a good deal of foul material from the road finds its way, and also slop water from sinks and back premises, but in no instance does any closet connect with these drains. The Gutters in some parts are flat and allow accumulation of refuse which at times becomes offensive, especially if the cleansing is not sufficiently attended to by the Scavenger of the Locality; the inhabitants might assist in abating any nuisance from this cause by flushing with a pail of water and sweeping the gutter in front of their houses.

The plan for flushing certain drains in Whitchurch by means of an inlet from the river appears to work well, and the springs which flow into the drain on a part of its course aid in keeping it clean, with the help of the Scavenger.

The WATER SUPPLY of the District is by wells and tube pumps, the latter being on the increase yearly, and more attention is paid to the covering of wells and raising of curbs so as to avoid pollution from surface water. Many samples of water have been examined from time to time, and defects made good or certificates granted as required.

The DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT in the District is mainly on the pail system, or cemented vaults, and the contents are ordered to be emptied at regular intervals by the scavenger for the localities of Whitchurch and Overton and carted away; the St. Mary Bourne District not requiring a scavenger. It was hoped that the pail system might be carried out on the dry principle but this is found to be practically impossible, for in the majority of cases there is neither dry earth nor ashes to be had, and where they have been the people are, with a few exceptions, too indifferent to use them. Again, many Closets are badly constructed and inconveniently situated, and supplied with unsuitable receptacles, but this latter fault has been much lessoned by the order of the District Council that the Inspector of Nuisances should give notice to replace insufficient and defective pails by those of an approved pattern. Notwithstanding its defects, the pail system has been beneficial to the public health by doing away with the old privy pits and the consequent pollution of air, soil, and water.

PIGGERIES near dwellings have been of less trouble during the year; this source of nuisance should not be allowed to increase.

The SLAUGHTER-HOUSES have been inspected and cleansed as required.

The DAIRIES and COWSHEDS have been inspected, and improvements made as to cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage; and regulations have been made by the District Council in conformity with the model regulations of the Local Government Board, to take effect from the 1st January, 1905.

The BAKEHOUSES have been inspected, white-washing and sanitation attended to as required, and some improvements made.

Several old, dirty and dilapidated houses have been attended to, white-washed and improved.

Many of the COTTAGES are too small and incommodious for the number in the family, so leading to overcrowding, which has been abated in the case of two families.

A few new houses have been built in different parts of the district, and some old ones pulled down and rebuilt; it would be well if more were served likewise. There appears to be no supervision over the erection of new houses.

Inspections have been made under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, attention given to their cleanliness and sanitary conditions, and to the dwellings of home workers, especially with regard to infectious illness, of which there has been an absence among them this year, during which there has been very little of this work distributed. I think the Medical Officer of Health should be supplied with copies of the lists of home workers, and of the places on the Register coming within the Act, as information on these points is at present deficient. The surroundings of one workroom were found to be dirty and ordered to be cleaned up.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is not in force in this district, and the sanitary accommodation appears to be sufficient and suitable.

When infectious illness has occurred in a house the children have been kept from school by notice to the teachers.

Many inspections of the district have been made, both systematic and otherwise, and often in company with the Inspector or Nuisances, with whom I have been in constant communication, and who has rendered valuable assistance.

The general sanitary improvement of the District has been maintained, and much good work done during the year. A well for four cottages at Traveller's Rest was found to be polluted, and steps taken to remedy it, the inhabitants in the meantime obtaining another supply; the result as yet is awaited by the District Council. There are still some old privies over the river which it would be well if the owners would remove, and the custom of throwing refuse of all kinds into the river should be prevented as far as possible.

The Inspector of Nuisances has submitted the following summary of work carried out under his supervision by order of the District Council and Medical Officer of Health:—

Cottages Whitewashed and Repaired	23
„ Bedding, &c., Disinfected	6
Overcrowding Abated	2
Wells Cleaned Out	1
Well Kerbs, New and Repaired	4
Tube Pumps Substituted for Wells	5
New Supply Tube Pump to Three Cottages ...	1
Water Certificates Granted for 19 Houses ...	7
Public Pumps Repaired	5
Closets, New	4
„ Repaired and Improved	7
Drains, New and Repaired	8
New Frames to Catch-pits	3
Dairy and Cowsheds Inspected	12
„ „ Registered	2
Bakehouses Inspected	12
Slaughter-houses Inspected	5
Factory and Workshops Inspected	3
Home Workers Houses Inspected	7
School Premises Inspected	5
River Course Cleansed	1
Pigs Removed	3
Pigstyes Cleansed	12

Several old pits to Closets have been done away with and pails substituted.

A new Scavenger's Cart has been provided for Whitchurch, and the Scavengers work both at Whitchurch and Overton has been done in a satisfactory manner.

Several small Cottages at Overton have been much improved.

There have been 140 Inspections made; and improvement in drainage and ventilation to several cowsheds and dairies.

Slaughter-houses have been under constant supervision, and on the whole in a satisfactory state.

(Signed) JOHN BUTCHER.
Inspector of Nuisances,

And I am, Gentlemen, yours faithfully,
HENRY HEMSTED,
Medical Officer of Health,
R.S.D., Whitchurch, Hants.

To the Rural District Council of Whitchurch, Hants.
January 21, 1905.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	5658	186	32·8	21	112·9	97	17·1	3	No Information.		97	17·1
1895	5658	190	33·5	18	94·7	87	15·4	11			87	15·4
1896	5658	169	29·8	16	94·2	71	12·5	5			71	12·5
1897	5658	174	30·7	22	126·4	95	16·7	12			95	16·7
1898	5658	182	32·1	25	137·3	95	16·7	10			95	16·7
1899	5658	169	29·8	14	82·8	64	11·3	2			64	11·3
1900	5658	151	26·6	16	105·9	78	13·7	6			78	13·7
1901	5822	152	26·1	17	111·8	77	13·2	8			77	13·2
1902	5822	148	25·4	16	108·0	60	10·3	3			60	10·3
1903	5822	146	25·0	20	136·9	82	14·0	8			82	14·0
Averages for years 1894-1903.	5707·2	166·7	29·18	18·5	111·09	80·6	14·09	6·8			80·6	14·09
1904	5822	156	26·7	13	83·3	63	10·8	7			63	10·8

*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—30,609.

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1901)—5822.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Names of Localities.	Whole District. 1.				Whitchurch District and Workhouse. 2.				Overton District. 3.				St. Mary Bourne District. 4.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1894 ...	5658	186	97	21	2958	93	55	14	1668	58	24	4	1032	35	18	3
1895 ...	5658	190	87	18	2958	86	46	11	1668	67	20	5	1032	37	21	2
1896 ...	5658	169	71	16	2958	77	35	8	1668	66	21	5	1032	26	15	3
1897 ...	5658	174	95	22	2958	86	52	8	1668	59	25	11	1032	29	18	3
1898 ...	5658	182	95	25	2958	71	49	6	1668	80	34	14	1032	31	12	5
1899 ...	5658	169	64	14	2958	85	29	5	1668	57	26	8	1032	27	9	1
1900 ...	5658	151	78	16	2958	72	42	7	1668	47	21	9	1032	32	15	0
1901 ...	5822	152	77	17	2974	69	43	9	1671	57	19	5	1177	26	15	3
1902 ...	5822	148	60	16	2974	69	30	9	1671	44	15	3	1177	35	15	4
1903 ...	5822	146	82	20	2974	72	45	12	1671	49	22	7	1177	25	15	1
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903 ...	5707·2	166·7	80·6	18·5	2962·8	78·0	42·6	8·9	1668·9	58·4	22·7	7·1	1075·5	31·3	15·3	2·5
1904 ...	5822	156	63	13	2974	65	35	7	1671	55	13	5	1177	36	15	1

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1904.

WHITCHURCH (HANTS) RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.											
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch District W. & H.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	Whitchurch District W. & H.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.
Diphtheria ...	8	...	...	5	1	2	...	8	...	...	6	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	3	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Totals ...	14	...	1	5	2	6	...	11	3	...	8	...	...

Isolation Hospital: Whitchurch, Hants.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to localities (at all ages).			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Whitchurch District.	Overton District.	St. Mary Bourne District.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteritis	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Phthisis	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...
Other tubercular diseases	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	1	...
Bronchitis	11	3	2	...	...	1	5	7	3	1	4
Pneumonia	4	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases	14	...	...	...	...	3	11	11	1	2	2
Suffocated	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
All other causes... ...	20	4	...	...	...	6	10	8	4	8	...
All causes	63	13	2	1	...	17	30	35	13	15	7